The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news summaries and authentic interpretation of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains full information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WHOLE NO. 1297 WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1936 FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 26, NO. 8

Agritation is the method that plants the school by the side of the ballot-box.—Wendell Phillips.

Workers Must Get Pay Rise, AFL Says

Federation Claims Large Increases in Profits Make Pay Boost Necessary — Condemns Employers' Policy of Not Providing Jobs for 11,000,000 Unemployed Although Business Recovery Is Rapidly Progressing.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Demonstrating by indisputable figures that the profits of 413 leading corporations in the United States increased from $74,000,000 in 1932 to approximately $1,300,000,000, and that "in general, profits in the first quarter of 1936 will be considerably above last year," the Monthly Survey of Business of the American Federation of Labor declared that these facts plane "on workers the obligation to demand higher wages if the balance between producing and consuming power is ever to be restored," adding:

"Since the upward trend of wages which began in July, 1933, was checked in June, 1935, with the end of the NRA, the responsibility for advance rests with the workers themselves through their collective bargaining agencies."

Few Jobs for Jobless

"While industry," the Survey continued, "assumes its gradual pace of recovery, 11,400,000 unemployed stand waiting for a chance to put idle plant and machine to work and produce the goods to give them a decent living.

"Last year's experience has shown that they cannot count on business recovery to give them jobs, for re-employment is by no means keeping pace with business gains.

"While business activity in December, 1935, was 21 per cent above December, 1934, employment was only 4 per cent higher. According to the Annalist index, a further advance of 25 per cent would bring business to the 1929 peak, but employment must rise 70 per cent to give work to all who want it.

"If we make no better progress than this in putting the unemployed back into industry will have to double its 1929 volume of production and service before there will be jobs for all."

Crisis Impends

Declaring that "the failure of private industry to put the unemployed to work and produce the goods necessary for a decent American living standard is now bringing the nation into serious danger," the Survey stressed the fact that our national debt, which now amounts to $40,- 857,000,000, has almost doubled in the last six years and that other threatening aspects are the decline of the credit, the increasing accumulation of large funds in banks and the new financial obligations resting on the Federal Government due to the soldiers' bonus and the $500,000,000 to be provided for farmers.

"Shall idle money, machines and men be used to produce goods and raise living standards or will we drift into runaway inflation, ending in a worse collapse than ever?" the Survey asks. "The answer depends on whether private enterprise resumes the task of creating wealth in this country."

Industry Restricts Production

"Thus far industry has been providing only those goods and services demanded by consumers whose income was restored by relief or re-employment. We have had a consumer goods' recovery but very little revival as yet in 'producers' goods.' Consumers goods industries are operating at 93 per cent of their 1929 level while the industries which manufacture machinery, steel and other materials and construct industrial buildings and equipment are running at only 37 per cent of 1929.

"This is a vital fact in our present dilemma. Producer goods industries normally produce about 35 per cent of our total national output. They employed in 1929 about 6,000,000. Now 3,000,000 are idle. If these 3,000,000 were employed, they would create jobs for 3,000,000 more in the consumer industries to provide their food and clothing. Thus revival in the producer goods industries would create 6,000,000 jobs. This is the key to recovery."

CATHOLIC GROUP BACKS CHILD LABOR AMENDMENT

Frank P. Walsh Heads National Organization to Urge Ratification in Twelve States Needed to Make The Proposal Part of Federal Constitution.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

New York, N. Y.—Frank P. Walsh, New York attorney and chairman of the Power Authority of New York State, announced the formation of the Catholic Committee for Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment. Mr. Walsh heads the organization.

Seventy-three prominent Catholics have already accepted places on the committee, which includes Catholic priests, educators, lawyers, and industrial, civic and labor leaders.

In stating the underlying reasons which brought about the formation of the committee, Mr. Walsh pointed out that the amendment is in a crucial period. "Twelve more states must ratify it in order to secure its incorporation in the Constitution.

"These ratifications," he said, "will not be secured without a struggle, for a widespread campaign of misrepresentation has been launched which has been especially distressed by the opposition on the part of many Catholics, some of whom are persons of great prominence and influence."

Mr. Walsh declared that this opposition was largely responsible for preventing ratification of the amendment in several State legislatures.

"Our committee," he continued, "is convinced there is nothing in this amendment which Catholics need fear, but that selfish interests, seeking to maintain the status of Federal exploint children, are persistently spreading the idea that the amendment is poorly drawn in an effort to enroll among its opponents individuals and groups who ordinarily give strongly support protective legislation for the children of this country."

Control of Schools Not Involved

Mr. Walsh contended that the belief of some Catholics that making the amendment a part of the Constitution would be an entering wedge for Federal control of education was without legal basis.

"This belief," he said, "is predicated on a dictionary definition of labor as 'physical or mental work chiefly exerted by the opponents with the implication that mental toil would include work children do in the classroom. I do not believe there is any justification whatever for this interpretation of the word 'labor' which, as used in labor statutes, has frequently been construed by the courts.

"It is because I am so firmly convinced that the amendment is a legitimate and necessary measure for the elimination of child labor in this country, and am equally convinced that opposition is largely self-interested when traced to its origin, that I deplore a general impression to the effect that even a minority of the men and women of our faith are opposed to it.

"I have therefore accepted the chairmanship of the Catholic Committee for Ratification of the Child Labor Amendment."

FURUSETH RE-ELECTED SEAMEN'S UNION HEAD

O'Brien Chosen Secretary-Treasurer; Scharrenberg Named Editor of Seamen's Journal.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—On the closing day of its thirty-third convention extending over a period of five weeks here, the International Seamen's Union of America unanimously re-elected Andrew Furuseth to the office of president. Mr. Furuseth is in his eighty-second year, is the oldest national trade union executive in the United States. He has been president of the Seamen's Union since 1908 and a delegate to American Federation of Labor conventions since 1893.

Patrick O'Brien of Buffalo, who has been a vice president for forty-one of the last forty-two years, was chosen secretary-treasurer to succeed Victor A. Olander, who asked to be relieved from the office. Mr. Olander was named adviser of the Executive Board, which consists of the president, the vice presidents, the secretary-treasurer and the editor of the union's official journal.

Paul Scharrenberg was re-elected to the position of editor of the Seamen's Journal, the official organ of the union, in which capacity he has served for many years.

The convention also elected the following vice presidents:

First vice president, Ivan Hunter, Marine Firemen, Oilers and Watertenders' Union of the Great Lakes; second vice president, Harry A. Lucas, Marine Gulf Sailors' Association; third vice president, Lester Carlson, Marine Firemen, Oilers and Watertenders' Union of the Atlantic and Gulf; fourth vice president, David E. Grange, Marine Cooks and Stewards' Association of the Atlantic and Gulf; fifth vice president, G. H. Brown, Eastern Gulf Sailors' Association; sixth vice president, C. W. Deal, International Union of the Pacific; seventh vice president, James Hayman, Marine Firemen, Oilers and Watertenders' Union of the Great Lakes; eighth vice president, Claude Simmons, Sailors' Union of the Great Lakes.

Andrew Furuseth, Paul Scharrenberg and Ivan Hunter were also elected delegates to the annual convention of the American Federation of Labor.

The Legislative Committee elected by the convention consists of Paul Scharrenberg, Ivan Hunter, Lester Carlson and David E. Grange.

Los Angeles, Calif., was named as the city for holding the next convention of the union, which will convene on the second Monday in January, 1937.

Battle Creek Street Railway Men Disband After 25 Years

Battle Creek, Mich. (AFLNS).—The immediate effect of the competition upon street car traffic is significantly reflected in the disbanding here of Division No. 33 of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway and Motor Coach Employees.

The local division had been organized in 1911 and was active and kept in good standing from the very start. When conditions forced the membership down to seven, it was decided to disband the local organization, the seven remaining members becoming members-at-large of the Amalgamated Association.

A. F. of L. Asks All Unions to Back Meat Cutters in Dispute With Morrell Company

Packing Concern Ignores Federation's Offer to Help Adjust Controversy — Company Victimized Union Men, Is Charge.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—President William Green of the American Federation of Labor sent a telegram to all A. F. of L. central bodies, federal labor unions and organizers urging them to solidly support the collaborating Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America in their long controversy with the John Morrell Company relative to the victimization of union members.

According to information made public by the union, the John Morrell Company laid off the time most active members of the Meat Cutters' Local Union at Sioux Falls, S. D., early last year. The layoff resulted in a strike following which the company agreed to reinstate all but 29 of the discharged members, whose cases were taken to the St. Paul Regional Labor Board. The board ordered the men also be unjustly discriminated against and ordered the company to reinstate them. The company refused to conform with the order of the board, and in July the Meat Cutters' Union ordered another strike, which is still in effect.

The Meat Cutters' Union organized a coast-to-coast campaign against the products of the Morrell Company, whose plants are located at Sioux Falls, S. D.; Ottumwa, Iowa, and Topeka, Kans.

The 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor adopted a resolution requesting the A. F. of L. Executive Council to offer its services in an effort to adjust the controversy and added that in case the Morrell Company refused to arrange the matter amicably the Executive Council should "lend all moral support to the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen in giving nation-wide publicity to the controversy."

In his letter to organized labor, President Green said:

"Conforming to the well-established policy of the American Federation of Labor and complying with the provisions of this resolution, we tendered the good offices of the American Federation of Labor to the John Morrell Company in an effort to adjust the questions at issue between this company and its employees. Our offer was graciously accepted for the appointment of its receipt by the office of the company.

"President Gorman and his associated officers of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America greatly desire your moral support in their struggle with this company.

"I sincerely trust that you will do everything in your power to aid and assist President Gorman and his associate officers in the fight they are waging for the rights and interests of their members and to have the organized labor movement understand and aid them in the fight they are making."

Catering Industry Plans Three Months' Nation-wide Campaign for New Members

International Hopes to Reach Goal of 100,000 Members — Present Membership to Cooperate in Campaign.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Cincinnati, Ohio.—It is announced that the annual spring membership campaign is conducted this year during the months of March, April and May by the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' International Alliance and Bartenders' International League of America.

The membership of local alliances throughout the country will actively participate in the campaign, according to the announcement made today by officials of the organization. Each member who secures another member or a reinstatement of an old member will go on the honor roll of the International Alliance, while those who succeed in getting a total of three or more reinstated members will be awarded special prizes.

The International Alliance now enjoys a membership of approximately 75,000 and it is hoped the big spring campaign this year will boost the membership to more than 100,000. Appropriation in the matter of initiation and reinstatement fees is being granted for the drive, "five dollars across the board" being the maximum. Reports coming in from local alliances in many parts of the nation indicate a growing interest among the present membership and augurs well for the success of the big drive that gets actively under way March 1.

Kankakee Unions Back Carpenters' Officer Against Victimization by Kroehler Company

Kankakee, Ill. (AFLNS).—The Kankakee Federation of Labor, at its recent meeting endorsed the fight which Louis Marsolais, recording secretary of local No. 1031 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, is making to secure reinstatement from the Kroehler Manufacturing Company here, a large producer of living room furniture.

According to Mr. Marsolais, Kroehler's superintendent discharged him last November on the claim that he tried to repair a broken leg of an overstuffed chair by the use of a wooden dowel. Mr. Marsolais claims the lee was scrapped and unsuccessful efforts made to hide it.

It is alleged that a hearing requested by the union on the discharge was refused by the president of the plant, who was reported to have said that he did not wish to be bothered with such trifles.

It is claimed that the Kroehler Company has branch plants in various other communities, where the speed-up system is generally applied, that it insists upon working its employes excessively long hours without paying overtime rates and that wages are generally below those prevailing in the better sections of the industry.

A folder published by Mr. Marsolais gives an account of his alleged victimization and the working conditions in the Kroehler plant was endorsed by the Kankakee Federation of Labor with the suggestion that it was publicity in a worthy cause.

DELAWARE FEDERATION IN ANNUAL CONVENTION

Relief and Union Organization Are Chief Topics—James O'Kane Presides—32 Organizations Affiliated.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Wilmington, Del. — The Delaware State Federation of Labor, meeting here, February 10, gave particular attention to acts affecting relief and to union organization, although considering a large number of resolutions on which Delaware labor is interested.

The annual convention this year was presided over by James O'Kane, president of the Wilmington Central Labor Union, in the absence of President Granville J. Walker, who is at present employed in Philadelphia. The report of John H. Hamm, secretary-treasurer, showed 32 organizations affiliated and the finances of the Federation in a healthy condition.

Praise was given the joint committee of the State Federation, the Wilmington Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council in adjusting WPA wage scales here.

A legislative committee was instructed to draft a program of proposed legislation to submit to the next convention, including unemployment insurance and other benefits in which labor is vitally concerned.

It was announced that the next convention will be held in Dover, Del., beginning the second Tuesday in February, 1937.

STOCKTON FIRE FIGHTERS WIN RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

Stockton, Calif. (AFLNS).—After a bitter fight waged by the organized employers here to have the newly elected fire chief reprimand active fire fighters for joining the International Association of Fire Fighters and affiliating with the Stockton Central Labor Council, the city fathers promptly handed the reactionary proposal.

The resolution condemning the fire fighters declared that the formation of a local chapter of the International Fire Fighters' Association, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor was "inimical to the best interest of the city of Stockton as a fire unit."

The anti-labor resolution was supported by City Manager Horan, who admitted the fire fighters had a right to organize, but criticized them for affiliating.

President Walter W. Mahaffey of the Stockton Central Labor Council opposed the resolution and Mr. Horan with a vigorous statement citing the number of cities in the United States and Canada where the firemen are organized with large benefits in efficiency for the fire departments. After receiving the Central Labor Council's strong support of the right of the firemen to enroll in the organized labor movement, the city fathers tossed the anti-labor resolution on the table with a resounding thud.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION FOR SOCIAL SECURITY

By R. E. VAN HORN

Editor, 'Gar Makers' Official Journal

Any plan for social security, whether it be an old-age pension, unemployment insurance or workmen's compensation, should be national in both its form and its application. We have the old-age pension laws operating in a few States at the present time.

It is claimed that none of the State plans are either adequate or equitable. Some few States have passed an old-age pension law and then failed to provide the funds necessary to pay the old people which the law has promised them, simply a miserable political gesture.

Other States are tinkering with unemployment insurance, but it is doubtful if very much relief can be expected as there has been no State unemployment insurance law proposed that adequately covers all the workers. There are too many exemptions for favored industries.

Thanks to organized labor, we have had workmen's compensation laws operative for several years. In fact, only four States are without such compensation law, but not one of the 44 States that have the law provides full protection to all the workers. Here again we find preferred exemptions and in many States the workers in small shops are denied relief under the law.

All of this indicates the necessity for national social security law, no matter what relief is intended. State boundaries should not determine the eligibility of the aged poor when relief becomes necessary.

Hunger knows no State lines. Workers should not be dependent upon State boundaries in order to receive benefits to unemployment insurance.

The chances are that the things the worker produces when he does have work go directly into interstate commerce. Since the United States Supreme Court finally decides interstate commerce really is, and surely the days of a hand or an eye is as great a handicap to a worker in one State as it is another, national State compensation law is the contrary.

AFGE MEMBERSHIP DRIVE REPORTED MAKING GAINS

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The membership drive just conducted by the American Federation of Government Employees, affiliated with the A. F. of L., is reported as making substantial gains.

For the first month of January, 1,720 initiation fees were received at the headquarters here and 16 charters were granted. Similar progress is reported as under way during February.

Organization work is going on now, not only among employes of the Federal Government but likewise among city, county and State employes in many communities, in keeping with the jurisdiction granted the A. F. of L. by the American Federation of Labor.

A. F. OF L. URGES NEW FEDERAL HOUSING GROUP

Committee Claims Policy of Housing Authority Does Not Benefit Low-Income Groups or Union Workers.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The establishment of a new independent housing authority by Congress was urged in a statement by the American Federation of Labor housing committee, recently appointed by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor.

Definite opposition to extending the Federal Housing Authority's program to include a "co-operative" national housing plan was expressed by the committee on the ground that the activities of the Authority constitute the opposite "of a real housing program."

The members of the committee are Harry A. Bullis, president of the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers; Joseph N. Calleran, president of the Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada; Peter Cosfeld, president of the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters of the United States and Canada.

The committee said the policy of the Federal Housing Authority "provides neither low-income families who need help most nor any consistent, building trades workers." It was the conviction of the committee that "a permanent public housing program is needed — but that "nothing is to be gained and much may be lost by attempting to combine the activities of the FHA with the program of such an authority."

The FHA does not aid the construction, the committee added, "as a stabilizing agency in the building industry." Mr. Calleran shows that practically all construction under its auspices has been built by labor working at far below the prevailing wage rates and under substandard working conditions.

"Finally," the statement said, "the FHA has not provided, nor can it provide, adequate housing for low-income families. It has insured mortgages throughout the whole country on only 640 houses available to families with incomes of $1,500 or less. Its only completed housing project (Colonial Village, Washington, D. C.) rents at $12.50 per room per month—in spite of the fact that building labor received about half the prevailing wage rate in the building trades.

"Moreover, even if the FHA were able to insure housing with low initial rentals, it has no means of permanent future control over such rentals."

The committee approved the program favored by the New Labor Housing Conference, of which Catherine Bauer is executive secretary, which, in addition to establishing a low-income housing program, recommended a system of Federal subsidies in the construction of housing for unemployed workers and strict Federal labor standards on all public housing and housing projects, including prevailing wages for all workers.

SUBVERSIVE PROPAGANDA HIT BY SEAMEN'S UNION

Convention Confers New Power on Executive Board to Control Local Groups.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The International Seamen's Union of America at its convention here took measures to protect the union against subversive propaganda wherever and whenever it crops out within the organization. This was accomplished by amending the union's constitution along the lines of broadening the control of the executive board over local and district organizations.

The unmistakable opposition of the convention to subversive propaganda was contained in a declaration made by Victor Olander, retiring secretary-treasurer, and was unanimously adopted by the delegates.

"The convention," the statement said, "hereby warns the district unions, constituting the Seamen's districts of the Atlantic and the Gulf, against the danger of yielding to subversive propaganda now being circulated from enormous sources by irresponsible persons, intended to create confusion and bring strife under circumstances leading to disaster, to the detriment of the Pacific district."

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The amendment to the constitution provided that a district organization may not amend its own constitution without the approval of the international executive board.

Another amendment authorizes the secretary-treasurer to appoint an auditor or accountant at any time to examine the books and accounts of local, local or district organization. It was believed the international union should have such a check on the activity of local challenged the right of the executive officer to have an accountant.

Still another amendment stipulates that the presiding officer of a local union may appoint a new trial board for $1,000. It was said this provision was designed to protect members against irresponsible members "butting into their affairs and taking charge of their business."

COUNTIES WILL ADMINISTER ILLINOIS OLD-AGE PENSIONS

Springfield, Ill. (AFLNS). — Both houses of the Illinois Legislature passed, over Governor Horner's veto, a bill placing the administration of the Illinois old-age pension law in the hands of county welfare departments. Opponents of the measure in the House expressed the fear that it would result in large old people not getting full pensions of $30 per month.

Sunday Closing Pledge Won By San Jose Clerks' Union

San Jose, Calif. (AFLNS).—As a result of a strike which began March 6 on by Retail Clerks' Union No. 428 a large proportion of the retail stores here have agreed to close Sundays and on six holidays during the year.

Negotiations which followed the strike were carried on by the Retail Grocers' Association. Union officials reported that all important stores had signed the agreement which became effective on February 16. On week days the stores will remain open from 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.

Facts on Wholesale Job Slaughter By Machines Cited by A. F. of L.

Communist United Front Is Refused By British Labor

Red Dictatorship Held Responsible for Fascist Dictatorship —Sincerity of Unity Proposal Questioned.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The British Labor Party has again rejected the application for affiliation from Communist Party.

Communist officials alleged the request for affiliation was based on their desire for a "United Front" against Fascism.

The affiliation application was considered by the National Executive Committee of the Labor Party at its recent meeting and the following reply, signed by J. S. Middleton, secretary of the party, was sent to the Communist group:

"The National Executive Committee had before it at its recent meeting your letter applying for the affiliation of the Communist Party to the Labor Party.

Dictatorship Policy Opposed

"After full consideration, the National Executive Committee came to the conclusion that no circumstances had arisen to justify any departure from the decision registered by the Annual Conference at Edinburgh in 1922, when, after a lengthy discussion (in which you will remember you took part), a similar application for affiliation was rejected by 2,849,000 to 261,000.

"On that occasion it was clearly stated that the fundamental difference between the democratic policy and practice of the Labor Party and the policy of dictatorship which the Communist Party had been created to promote was irreconcilable. No events which have taken place in the intervening period have served to reconcile that profound and fundamental difference.

"It is true that Fascism has conquered power in various European States. In the opinion of the National Executive Committee, however, the victories of the Fascist dictatorships were in part facilitated by the campaigns of Communist dictatorship that preceded them, and which effectively split the working class movements and rendered their opposition impotent.

Red Boring from Within Rapped

"Moreover, the National Executive Committee cannot fail to take note of the fact that the present application for affiliation is but an evidence of the deviation in the tactics which have been pursued by the Communist International in recent years, and that affiliation to-day, could only be for the purpose of promoting the Labor Party's declared policy and program but, on the contrary, of using those facilities on the platform, in public conferences, and in the Party press, to displace their essential democratic and Socialist character and substitute a policy and program based upon Communist Party principles.

"The National Executive Committee is as firmly convinced as were their predecessors that any weakening in the Labor Party's opposition to Communism, such as the affiliation of the Communist Party would imply, would inevitably assist the forces of reaction, would endanger our existing liberties, and would be the most effective service of Socialism in this country.

"For these circumstances, the National Executive Committee is unable to accede to your application."

BILLION DOLLARS ASKED TO EXTEND RURAL POWER

Norris Bills for Electrification Loans Reported by Senate Agricultural Committee.

Washington, D. C. (AFLNS).—The Senate Agriculture Committee reported favorably the bill sponsored by Senator George W. Norris, Nebraska, providing for the creation of a permanent rural electrification administration with authority to borrow $1,000,000,000 in making electric light and power available for farmers throughout the United States.

Under the Norris plan, $100,000,000 would be provided each year for 10 years. The funds would be loaned to States, municipalities or non-profit organizations for the purpose of building generating plants and distribution lines in farm areas now without electric power. The loans would be liquidated over a 40-year period and would carry 3 per cent interest.

In support of his proposal Senator Norris said:

"In many ways the farmer is the best customer in the purchase and use of electric current.

"The farmer needs all the facilities which the city dweller needs, but in addition thereto he needs many facilities for which the city dweller has no use.

"The farmer, for instance, needs electric current to grind feed, to pump water and to perform many other services about the farm which have no application to the consumer of electricity in the cities and towns."

Racine Auto Workers Win Union Shop, 40-Hour Week

Racine, Wis. (AFLNS).—A good example of the power of the A. F. of L. affiliable management can do in establishing progressive labor relations is found in the agreement secured by Local 74, International Union of United Automobile Workers of America, with the Hexel Radiator Company here. The agreement starts off by naming the union committee as the sole bargaining agent for all employes in the plant with the provision that the company shall notify all new employes to this effect and that such employes "shall become members of the union within four weeks."

The agreement also provides for an eight-hour day and 40-hour week with a 7 per cent bonus for steady night work and time and one-half for all overtime prior to 10 o'clock P. M. Double time is paid for all overtime after 10 o'clock and for work on legal holidays and Sundays.

A binding arbitration agreement is included in the contract.

1,600 Men with New Steel-Making Equipment Do Work Formerly Requiring 32,000, Legislative Representative Meadows Tells House Labor Committee.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington, D. C.—The tremendous destruction of work opportunities by machinery in modern industry was pointedly detailed to the labor committee of the House of Representatives by E. F. Meadows, Legislative Representative of the American Federation of Labor, in his testimony favoring the resolution introduced by Representative Vincent L. Palmisano of Maryland, authorizing the Labor Department to investigate labor-saving devices and their effect on employment.

"A careful survey," he said, "should be made in an effort to ascertain correctly the amount of labor displaced by the principal industries of our country by the use of machines, the probable increased production of each, the reduced consumption directly attributable to these non-consuming factors and their relative connection with the present low purchasing power of our consuming public.

In emphasizing the importance of the proposed survey, Mr. Meadows cited a number of recent developments in which employers have installed new machines capable of displacing thousands of workers.

"The steel mills," he said, "are introducing a machine which permits 1,600 workmen to do the work which now requires 32,000 workmen to do. Instead of 636 sheet and tin and jobbing mills in the country, it would only be necessary to have 12 mills with this machinery.

Auto Workers' Jobs Destroyed

"The 1929 labor cost per unit for automobiles is estimated at $4.60; the 1935 labor cost per unit is only 15 cents per door, accomplished by machine welding two parts together.

"Ford has just put into use a well-known auto manufacturer finished eight cylinder motor blocks on a given line-up with 250 men. Today the same line-up finishes 250 motor blocks with 20 per cent more operations using only 19 men. The men were paid on an average of $12.30 per 100 blocks per operation five years ago. Today, by doubling and tripling the number of machines and using unskilled and cheap labor, increasing the number of operations allotted to each operator, the operator has received $1.50 to $2.00 for the same operation he performed five years ago and performs two or more operation in addition, all of which has been incorporated into his original operation.

Photo-Electric Lathe Displaces Workers

"Just recently information has come to us of the invention of a new photo-electric lathe which can reproduce a complicated design without human aid, which has been invented by a Russian engineer. The inventor is V. S. Vichman, head of the Moscow Institute of Machine Tools and Instruments.

"With the aid of a photo-electric-cell the lathe can reproduce designs that are placed in it; then, it is claimed, the shaping instruments are automatically adjusted. Vichman's lathe has been adopted by the Institute, which is now manufacturing others of the same design for use in industry. It is claimed that the machine will displace many employes formerly employed in this kind of work."

Mr. Meadow also cited Phillip Murray, vice president of the United Mine Workers of America, as having testified before the House Judiciary Subcommittee, January 19, 1932, that 100,- 000 miners have been displaced by technological improvements and the "increased use of machinery."

"The American Federation of Labor," Mr. Meadows concluded, "favors the resolution introduced for the purpose of investigation by Congress of the number of workmen displaced by the use of machinery in industry."

DAYTON LOCKOUT BRINGS CHARGES TO LABOR BOARD

Employes of National Pattern Works and Auto Dealers Try to Break Union.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Dayton, Ohio.—The Dayton Patternmakers' Union has filed charges before the National Labor Relations Board, Region Eight, Cincinnati, alleging violation of the National Labor Relations Act by the National Pattern Works here. The charges allege discrimination against union members, who are reported to have been locked out by the concern. Investigation of the charges are expected to result in an order for their reinstatement.

A second labor lockout occurred here February 14 when 34 of the organized automobile dealers in Dayton closed their service departments in what is termed an attempt to break the union of Airplane Mechanics' Union. About 200 men were thrown out of work. The automobile men's action charges discrimination against union members, who are reported to have been locked out by the concern. Investigation of the charges are expected to result in an order for their reinstatement.

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MUNICIPAL LIGHTING PLANT BENEFITS BLOOMFIELD, IOWA

By A. F. of L. News Service.

The municipally owned and operated electric light and power plant of Bloomfield, Iowa, has given the citizens many benefits, according to reports by the town officials.

Although Bloomfield has a population of only 2,400, the plant in the last five years has earned profits amounting to $111,872. Despite reduced rates net profits in 1935 were $19,678.

Since 1927 the town authorities have transferred $124,823 from the light fund to other funds. The profits accruing from the plant have been used for the construction of a modern sewage disposal system, a new shallow well water system and water main extensions. In addition, city taxes have been reduced, low rates for heat, light and power realized, and two months' of free service given three years.

STRETCHOUT PLAN CAUSES STRIKE OF MILL WORKERS

Gaffney, S. C. (AFLNS).—Four hundred employes of the Alma Mill here struck against an extension of the stretchout plan by the mill management. The president of the mill said the plan merely provided a "few minor changes, made partly to enable us to meet competitive manufacturing costs and present market conditions." The workers objected to having more work imposed upon them in the interests of increased profits for the mill owners.